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STATE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

OF

ILLINOIS



RULES

**Establishing Standards of Service for Gas and
Electric Utilities.**

Adopted by the Commission and Effective November 1, 1914.

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SPRINGFIELD, ILL.
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1914

McCurry

RULES ESTABLISHING STANDARDS OF SERVICE FOR GAS AND ELECTRIC UTILITIES IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

PRELIMINARY.

I. Statutory.

The Illinois Public Utilities Law, Act of 1913, contains the following provisions:

§ 10. DEFINITIONS.—The term "service," when used in this Act, is used in its broadest and most inclusive sense, and includes not only the use or accommodation afforded consumers or patrons, but also any product or commodity furnished by any public utility and the plant, equipment, apparatus, appliances, property and facilities employed by, or in connection with, any public utility in performing any service or in furnishing any product or commodity and devoted to the purposes in which such public utility is engaged and to the use and accommodation of the public.

§ 54. STANDARDS OF SERVICE.—The commission shall have power to ascertain, determine and fix for each kind of public utility suitable and convenient standard commercial units of service, product or commodity, which units shall be lawful units for the purposes of this Act; to ascertain, determine and fix adequate and serviceable standards for the measurement of quantity, quality, pressure, initial voltage or other condition pertaining to the performing of its service or to the furnishing of its product or commodity by any public utility, and to prescribe reasonable regulations for examining, measuring and testing such service, product or commodity, and to establish reasonable rules, regulations, specifications and standards to secure the accuracy of all meters and appliances for examining, measuring, or testing such service, product or commodity.

II. Authorization of Rules.

In accordance with the statutory provisions in § 54 above, the attached rules establishing standards for gas and electric service have been prepared, approved by the commission and become effective on November 1, 1914.

III. Application of Rules.

These rules shall apply to any public utility defined as such by the Illinois Public Utilities Commission Law, which is now or hereafter may be engaged in the production, sale or distribution

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of gas or electricity and which comes under the jurisdiction of the commission.

IV. Saving Clause.

The adoption of these rules shall in no way preclude the commission from altering or amending the same, in whole or in part, or from requiring any other or additional service, equipment, facility or standard, either upon complaint or upon its own motion, or upon the application of any utility; and, furthermore, these rules shall in no way relieve any utility from any of its duties under the laws of this State.

If any utility has been supplying or is under contract to supply a quality of service of greater value to the consumer than that which these rules require, no reduction in such quality of service shall be made by the utility before a determination by the commission of the proper rate to be charged the consumer for the lower grade of service. Such a rate shall, in general, be based upon the cost of furnishing the grade of service required by these rules.

V. Definitions.

The word "utility," used in these rules, shall be construed to mean public utility.

The word "commission," used in these rules, shall be construed to mean the State Public Utilities Commission of Illinois.

The word "consumer," used in these rules, shall be construed to mean any person, firm or corporation supplied by any utility with gas or electricity.

GENERAL SERVICE RULES.

Rule 1. Records and Reports.

All records required by these rules shall be preserved for at least three years after they are made. Such records shall be kept within the State, at an office or offices of the utility located in the territory served by it, and shall be open for examination by the commission or its representative. Each utility shall notify the commission of the office or offices at which the various classes of records are kept and shall file with the commission such reports as the commission may from time to time require.

Rule 2. Testing Facilities.

(a) Each utility shall, unless specifically excused by the commission, provide such laboratory, meter-testing shop and other equipment and facilities as may be necessary to make the tests required by these rules or other orders of the commission. The apparatus and equipment so provided shall be at all times available for the inspection or use of any member or authorized representative of the commission.

(b) Each utility shall make such tests as are prescribed under these rules with such frequency and in such manner and at such places as may be approved by the commission.

Rule 3. Request Tests.

Each utility furnishing metered service shall make a test of the accuracy of any meter, upon written request by a consumer: Provided, first, that the meter in question has not been tested by the utility or by the commission within six months previous to such request; and second, that the consumer will agree to accept the result of the test made by the utility as determining the basis for settling the difference claimed. No charge shall be made to the consumer for any such test. A report, giving the result of every such test, shall be made to the consumer.

Rule 4. Adjustment of Bills for Meter Error.

If on any test of a service meter, either by the utility or by the commission, such meter shall be found to have a percentage of error greater than that allowed in Rule 11 (c) for gas meters, or Rule 22 (c) for watt-hour meters, the following provisions for the adjustment of bills shall be observed:

(a) **FAST METERS.**—If the meter is faster than allowable, the utility shall refund to the consumer a percentage of the amount of his bills for the six months previous to the test or for the time the meter was installed, not exceeding six months, corresponding to the percentage of error of the meter. No part of a minimum, service or demand charge need be refunded.

(b) **SLOW METERS.**—If the meter is found not to register or to run slow, the utility may render a bill to the consumer for the

estimated consumption during the preceding six months, not covered by bills previously rendered, but such action shall be taken only in cases of substantial importance where the utility is not at fault for allowing the incorrect meter to be in service.

Rule 5. Records of Tests and of Meters.

(a) **SERVICE TEST RECORD.**—A complete record of the quality and condition of service shall be kept by each utility. The record so kept shall contain complete information concerning each test, including the date and hour when and the place where the test was made, the name of the inspector conducting the test, the result of the test and such other information as may be required by these rules, or as the commission may from time to time direct, or as the utility making the test may deem desirable.

(b) **METER TEST RECORD.**—Whenever any service meter is tested, the original test record shall be preserved containing the information necessary for identifying the meter, the reason for making the test, the reading of the meter upon removal from service and the result of the test, together with all data taken at the time of the test in sufficiently complete form to permit the convenient checking of the methods employed and the calculations.

(c) **METER RECORD.**—A record shall also be kept, numerically arranged, giving for each meter owned or used by any utility, the date of purchase, its identification, and the repairs and tests to which it has been subjected, with dates and general results of all tests.

(d) **TABULATION OF METER TESTS.**—Monthly and annual tabulations of the results of all meter tests shall be made, arranged according to types of meters and intervals of test.

Rule 6. Meter Readings on Bills.

Bills rendered periodically to consumers for metered service shall show the readings of the meter at the beginning and end of the period for which the bill is rendered, the number and kinds of units of service supplied, the dates of the meter readings and the price per unit of service. On all bills which are computed on any other basis than a definite charge per unit of service, the other factors used in computing the bill shall be clearly stated so that the amount may be readily computed from the information appearing upon the bill.

Rule 7. Complaints.

Each utility shall make a written acknowledgment to consumers of the receipt of all complaints; shall make a full and prompt investigation of all such complaints, and shall keep a record which shall show the name and address of the complainant, the date and nature of the complaint, and the adjustment or disposal thereof.

Rule 8. Interruptions of Service.

Each utility shall make all reasonable efforts to eliminate interruptions of service and when such interruptions occur shall

endeavor to re-establish service with the shortest possible delay. Whenever the service is interrupted for the purpose of working on the distribution system or the station equipment, this shall be done at a time which will cause the least inconvenience to consumers and those most seriously affected by such interruption shall, if possible, be notified in advance.

SPECIAL GAS SERVICE RULES.

Rule 9. Definition of a Cubic Foot of Gas.

For testing purposes, a cubic foot of gas shall be taken to be the amount of gas in a volume of one cubic foot when saturated with water vapor, at sixty degrees Fahrenheit, and at a pressure of thirty inches of mercury.

For purpose of measurement to a consumer, a cubic foot of gas shall be the amount of gas in a volume of one cubic foot under the conditions existing in such consumer's meter as and where installed; provided consumer's meter shall not be set so close to any source of artificial heat as to subject them to a temperature exceeding seventy-five degrees Fahrenheit.

Rule 10. Meter Testing Equipment.

Each utility furnishing metered gas service shall own an approved meter prover of not less than five cubic feet capacity, and shall maintain the same in proper adjustment to register the accuracy of the meters to within one-half per cent ($\frac{1}{2}\%$). The meter prover shall be so placed as to be shielded from excessive temperature variations and shall be equipped with suitable thermometers and other necessary accessories.

The accuracy of all provers and methods of operating same may be established from time to time by a representative of the commission. All alterations, accidents or repairs which might affect the accuracy of a prover or the method of operating same shall be promptly reported in writing to the commission.

Rule 11. Gas Meter Accuracy.

(a) METHOD OF TESTING.—All tests to determine the accuracy of registration of a gas service meter shall be made with a suitable meter prover. At least two test runs shall be made on each meter, the results of which shall agree with each other within one-half per cent ($\frac{1}{2}\%$).

(b) INSTALLATION TEST.—Every gas service meter, whether new, repaired, or removed from service for any cause, when installed for the use of any consumer shall be in good order and shall have been adjusted to be not more than one per cent (1%) in error when passing gas at six (6) cubic feet per hour per rated light capacity. Each such meter shall be marked by the utility testing it with the date of the last test made on that meter.

(c) ALLOWABLE ERROR.—Whenever a meter is tested to determine the accuracy with which it has been registering in service, it may be considered as correct if found not more than two per cent (2%) in error, and no adjustment of charges shall be entailed unless the error is greater than this amount.

(d) PREPAYMENT METERS.—No utility shall use prepayment meters geared or set so as to cause a rate or amount higher than

would be paid if a standard meter was in use, unless the consent of the commission is first obtained in writing.

Rule 12. Periodic Tests of Gas Meters.

No gas service meter hereafter installed shall be allowed to remain in service more than five years from the time when last tested without being re-tested, as specified in Rule 10, and if necessary readjusted to be correct within one per cent (1%) before being set for use.

During each period of twelve months after these rules take effect, until all meters now in service shall have been tested, each gas utility shall remove and test not less than twenty per cent of all meters now in service, those longest in service being removed first.

Rule 13. Referee Tests.

Upon written application to the commission by a consumer a test will be made of said consumer's meter, as soon as practicable, by an inspector employed by the commission. The application for such test shall be accompanied by a remittance of the amount fixed below as the fee for such test. If the meter is found to be more than two per cent (2%) fast, this fee shall be paid to the consumer by the utility.

The fees for referee meter tests are:

Not exceeding ten lights capacity, each.....	\$2.00
Exceeding ten lights, but not exceeding forty-five lights capacity, each.....	4.00
Exceeding forty-five lights capacity, each.....	8.00

This rule shall not interfere with the practice of a utility in its tests of gas service meters, except that in the event of a written application to the commission by a consumer for a referee test the utility shall not remove or interfere with said meter without the consent previously given in writing of the consumer.

Rule 14. Calorimeter Equipment.

Each utility whose gas output exceeds twenty million cubic feet per year shall equip itself with a complete standard calorimeter outfit of a type approved by the commission and shall test the heating value of gas supplied, using methods of test in accordance with the best practice. The heating value of manufactured gas shall be determined on at least three days each week and of natural gas at least three times a year.

Rule 15. Heating Value.

Each utility furnishing manufactured gas shall supply gas which at any point at least one mile from the plant, and tested in the place where it is consumed, shall have a monthly average total heating value of not less than 565 British thermal units per cubic foot, and at no time shall the total heating value of the gas at such point be less than 530 British thermal units per cubic foot.

To arrive at the monthly average total heating value, the results of all tests made on any one day shall be averaged and the

average of all such daily averages shall be taken as the monthly average.

Provided, further, that in case gas is carried by mains at five pounds pressure or over per square inch, there shall be an allowance in the service of such high pressure district of 35 British thermal units per cubic foot in the monthly average, and the minimum heating value shall not fall below 520 British thermal units per cubic foot. No utility shall lower its present standard heating value without first obtaining in writing the consent of the commission.

Rule 16. Purity of Gas.

(a) **HYDROGEN SULPHIDE.**—Manufactured gas distributed in this State shall not contain more than one grain of hydrogen sulphide per hundred cubic feet. Any test approved by the commission may be used for the determination of hydrogen sulphide. This purity requirement will be considered as satisfied if a strip of white filter paper, recently moistened with a solution of 100 grains of lead acetate in 100 cubic centimeters of water, be exposed to the gas for one and one-half minutes in an apparatus previously purged through which the gas is flowing at the rate of approximately five cubic feet per hour, the gas not impinging directly from a jet upon the test paper, and after this exposure the test paper be found not distinctly darker than a second paper freshly moistened with the solution and not exposed to the gas. Test papers shall be kept for one year by a safe and secure method, and shall be available to the commission if and when desired in that period.

(b) **TOTAL SULPHUR.**—Manufactured gas distributed in this State shall not contain more than thirty grains of total sulphur per hundred cubic feet.

(c) **TESTS OF GAS PURITY.**—Each utility supplying manufactured gas shall, for the purposes of record, daily test the gas leaving its holders for the presence of hydrogen sulphide in the manner specified.

Each utility supplying manufactured gas whose sales exceed fifty million cubic feet of gas per year shall provide and maintain such approved apparatus and facilities as are necessary for the determination of total sulphur; and each such utility shall at least once a week determine and put on record the amount of total sulphur in the gas distributed by it.

Rule 17. Pressure of Gas.

(a) **PRESSURE VARIATION.**—The pressure of gas supplied by any utility, as measured at the outlet of any consumer's meter, shall not be less than two inches nor more than eight inches of water pressure except where greater pressure is specified and provided for in the contract between the utility and the consumer, and provided there be no unfair and unreasonable discrimination or preferences. Within said limits the daily variation of pressure at the outlet of any one meter on the system shall never be greater than one hundred per cent of the minimum pressure at that outlet, provided that variations in pressure entirely beyond the control of the utility shall not be considered as a violation of this rule.

(b) **PRESSURE SURVEYS.**—Each gas utility shall provide itself with one or more portable graphic recording pressure gauges and shall make frequent measurements of the gas pressure and of the pressure variation throughout the system.

Rule 18. Record of Interruptions.

Each utility shall keep a record of all interruptions to service on its entire system or on any portion thereof, which record shall contain the time, cause if known, extent and duration of the interruption.

Rule 19. Extension of Mains.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—For the purpose of this rule, a high pressure system shall be taken to mean one in which the gas is carried at a pressure of two pounds or over per square inch to the consumer's premises where a service governor is installed to obtain a reduced pressure on such premises. A low pressure system shall mean a system in which the consumer's service is connected directly to a main carrying less than two pounds per square inch water pressure.

(b) **FREE EXTENSIONS.**—Each utility shall upon written request for service by a prospective consumer, or a group of prospective consumers located in the same neighborhood, make free of charge a street main extension necessary to give service, provided that the length of the entire extension is not greater than that obtained by allowing 100 feet per consumer for a low pressure system and 200 feet per consumer for a high pressure system.

(c) **EXTENSIONS ABOVE FREE LIMIT.**—If the main extension required in order to furnish service at any point within the corporate limits of any city or village, or for any adjacent suburb of a city or village, is greater than the free extension specified above, such an extension shall be made under the following conditions: The utility may require a deposit of the cost of the extension above the free limit and shall, in such a case, refund an amount equal to the cost of the free main extension for each additional consumer whose service shall be taken off of the entire extension within a period of ten years from the making of such an extension, but at no time shall the rebate made exceed the original deposit. If the extension is of such length and the prospective business which may be developed by it is so meager as to make it doubtful whether the business from the extension would ever pay a fair return on the investment, the facts shall be reported to the commission for investigation and determination as to the reasonableness of such extension.

This rule shall not be construed as prohibiting any utility from making free extensions of lengths greater than above specified, or from providing a method of return of deposits for extensions more favorable to consumers, so long as no discrimination is practiced between consumers whose service requirements are similar.

(d) **CONTRACT FOR SERVICE.**—Utilities will not be required to make street main extensions as described in this rule unless those served by such extensions shall contract to use the service for at least one year.

SPECIAL ELECTRIC SERVICE RULES.

Rule 20. Meter Testing Equipment.

(a) **WORKING STANDARDS.**—Each utility furnishing metered electric service shall provide for and have available, suitable and adequate facilities for testing its service watt-hour meters. These facilities shall be satisfactory to and approved by the commission and shall, in general, include a test bench fitted with the necessary apparatus and such working standards as are needed. Such working standards will consist of portable indicating instruments and watt-hour meters known as "rotating standards." Working standards shall be calibrated periodically by reference to secondary standards of known accuracy and shall either be maintained accurate to within one-half per cent ($\frac{1}{2}\%$) or the proper correction be applied to their readings.

(b) **SECONDARY STANDARDS.**—Secondary standards of some approved type shall be owned and maintained by each utility having more than one thousand meters in service. Utilities not required to possess such secondary standards shall have their working standards tested and calibrated in any properly equipped laboratory of recognized standing.

(c) **CHECK METERS.**—Utilities not required to possess secondary standards shall make the following provision for checking their rotating standards: For each kind (alternating or continuous current) of rotating standard a check meter of suitable type and capacity shall be provided and the rotating standards shall be checked thereby at least once a week while in service. Such check meter may be of the service type and shall be mounted permanently on the test bench. These meters shall be adjusted and sealed by an inspector of the commission and shall be considered the reference standard for the utility. If this check shows the standard to be in error, it shall be calibrated in some laboratory of recognized standing.

(d) **CALIBRATION CARDS.**—Each working or secondary standard shall be at all times accompanied by a certificate, signed by the proper authority, giving the date it was last calibrated and the corrections to be applied.

Rule 21. Meters—Method of Determining Average Error.

The average error of a service watt-hour meter shall be determined as follows: The error at light load—here defined as approximately ten per cent (10%) of the rated capacity of the meter—shall be determined by taking the average of at least two errors, determined from as many separate tests on the same light load, which errors must agree within one-half per cent ($\frac{1}{2}\%$). The test runs shall be at least thirty seconds long.

In the same manner the error at heavy load—here defined as a load of approximately seventy-five per cent (75%) of the rated capacity of the meter—shall be determined.

The average error of the meter shall then be determined by taking the average of the error at light load and the error at heavy load, proper account being taken of the sign of these two errors: Provided, that where the consumer's connected load does not equal seventy-five per cent (75%) of the rated capacity of the meter, the full connected load may be considered as heavy load for the purpose of test.

Rule 22. Meter Accuracy.

(a) **CREEPING.**—No watt-hour meter which registers on "no load" when the applied voltage is less than one hundred and ten per cent (110%) of standard service voltage shall be placed in service or allowed to remain in service.

(b) **INSPECTION AND TEST BEFORE INSTALLATION.**—No watt-hour meter shall be placed in service which is in any way mechanically defective or which has incorrect constants or which has not been tested for accuracy of measurement and adjusted, if necessary, to meet these requirements:

Average error not over 2%.

Error at heavy load not over 1%.

Error at light load not over 4%.

(c) **TEST FOR CORRECT LAGGING.**—Alternating current service watt-hour meters, which are to be used on circuits supplying inductive load shall also be tested before installation at one hundred per cent (100%) of rated current at fifty per cent (50%) lagging power factor and, if necessary, adjusted so that the error will not be more than two per cent (2%).

(d) **ADJUSTMENT AFTER TEST.**—Whenever a test made by the utility or by the commission on a service watt-hour meter connected in its permanent position in place of service shows that the average error is greater than that specified above, the meter shall be adjusted to bring the average error within the specified limits.

(e) **ALLOWABLE ERROR.**—A service watt-hour meter having an average error of not more than four per cent (4%) may be considered as correct and no adjustment of charges shall be entailed by such an error.

Rule 23. Meters—Installation Tests.

(a) Each watt-hour meter shall be checked for correct connection, proper mechanical condition, suitability of location and accuracy of measurement in its permanent position in place of service within sixty days after installation.

(b) Meters operating on inductive circuits shall be tested on the connected load under conditions approximating as nearly as may be to heavy and light loads, as defined in Rule 21, and shall be adjusted, if necessary, so that the average error will not be more than two per cent (2%).

(c) Meters installed with instrument transformers or shunts must be tested jointly with the transformers or shunts; otherwise the ratio of transformation of the transformers or the calibration of the shunts must be determined at least once every five years.

Rule 24. Meters—Periodic Tests.

Each watt-hour meter shall be tested according to the following schedule while connected in its permanent position in place of service:

(a) Two and three-wire commutating type and mercury type meters, up to and including fifty (50) amperes rated capacity of meter element, shall be tested at least once every eighteen (18) months.

(b) Two and three-wire commutating type and mercury type meters of over fifty (50) amperes rated capacity of meter element, shall be tested at least once every twelve (12) months.

(c) Two and three-wire single phase induction type meters, up to and including twenty-five (25) amperes rated capacity of meter element, shall be tested at least once every thirty (30) months.

(d) Two and three-wire single phase induction type meters of over twenty-five (25) amperes rated capacity of meter element, shall be tested at least once every twenty-four (24) months.

(e) Self-contained polyphase meters, up to and including fifty (50) kw. rated capacity, shall be tested at least once every eighteen (18) months.

(f) Self-contained polyphase meters of over fifty (50) kw. rated capacity shall be tested at least once every twelve (12) months.

(g) Polyphase meters, connected through current transformers or current and potential transformers, to circuits up to and including fifty (50) kw. rated capacity, shall be tested at least once every twenty-four (24) months.

(h) Polyphase meters, connected through current transformers, or current and potential transformers, to circuits of over fifty (50) kw. rated capacity, shall be tested at least once every eighteen (18) months.

Rule 25. Referee Test.

Any service watt-hour meter will be tested by an inspector employed by the commission upon written application by the consumer. For such a test a fee shall be forwarded to the commission by the consumer when making application, which fee shall be refunded to the consumer by the utility if the meter be found more than four per cent (4%) fast, the average error in measurement being calculated as specified in Rule 21.

The schedule of fees for referee tests of watt-hour meters is as follows:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| (a) For continuous current and single phase meters operating on 600 volts or less, up to and including twenty-five (25) amperes rated capacity of the meter element, each..... | \$2.00 |
| (b) For each additional fifty (50) amperes or fraction thereof | .50 |

- (c) For single phase meters above 600 volts, and for poly-phase meters, with or without instrument transformers, up to and including twenty-five (25) kw. rated capacity of the circuit.....\$3.00
- (d) For each additional twenty-five (25) kw. rated capacity, or fraction thereof..... 3.00

Rule 26. Voltage Variation.

Each utility supplying electrical energy from a constant potential system shall adopt a standard service voltage for each locality supplied from such system, the suitability and adequacy of which voltage may be determined at any time by the commission, and every reasonable effort shall be made by the use of proper equipment and operation to maintain such voltage practically constant at all times during which service is supplied. For service rendered under a lighting contract, or primarily for lighting purposes, the variations of voltage as measured at each consumer's cutout shall not exceed five per cent (5%), plus or minus, of the standard service voltage for that locality, for a longer period than one minute at each instance, at any time during which service is supplied. For service rendered under a power contract, or primarily for power purposes, voltage variations as measured at the service terminals shall not exceed ten per cent (10%), plus or minus, of the standard service voltage for that locality, for a longer period than one minute at each instance.

Variations of voltage in excess of those specified above, caused by the operations of the consumer in violation of his contract or the rules of the utility, or from causes beyond the control of the utility, shall not be considered a violation of this rule.

Rule 27. Voltage Surveys and Records.

Each utility shall provide itself with one or more portable indicating voltmeters, and each utility serving more than 250 consumers shall have one or more portable graphic recording voltmeters, these instruments to be of an approved type and having a range suited to the voltage supplied. Each utility shall make a sufficient number of voltage surveys to indicate the service furnished from each transformer and feeder and to satisfy the commission of its compliance with the voltage requirements, and those having graphic voltmeters shall keep at least one of these instruments in continuous service at the plant, office or some consumer's premises.

Rule 28. Standard Frequency.

Each utility supplying alternating current shall adopt a standard frequency, the suitability of which may be determined by the commission, and shall maintain this frequency within five per cent (5%), plus or minus, of standard at all times during which service is supplied: Provided, however, that momentary variations of frequency of more than five per cent (5%), which are clearly due to no lack of proper equipment or reasonable care on the part of the utility, shall not be considered a violation of this rule.

Rule 29. Station Records.

Each utility shall keep a station record, which shall show: The time of starting and shutting down all generating units; the time of starting and disconnecting all street lighting circuits; the readings of such instruments at each generating station and at such intervals as are necessary to determine the character of the load; all interruptions to service affecting the busbars or distribution system, with the time, duration, extent and the cause, when known, of the interruption. An interruption is here defined, for the purpose of record only, as the interval of time during which the voltage falls below fifty per cent (50%) of the standard voltage.

Rule 30. Grounding of Secondaries.

The rules contained in the current edition of the National Electrical Code regarding the grounding of secondaries shall be observed in all new construction. Each utility shall adopt a plan whereby existing construction shall be made to conform to the rules as expeditiously as possible.

Rule 31. Extension of Lines.

(a) **FREE EXTENSIONS.**—Each utility shall upon written request for service by a prospective consumer, or a group of prospective consumers located in the same neighborhood, make free of charge a line extension necessary to give service and furnish free service connection; provided, that such line extension does not require more than twice as many poles at standard spacing as there are individual applicants.

(b) **EXTENSIONS ABOVE FREE LIMIT.**—If the line extension required in order to furnish service at any point within the corporate limits of any city or village, or for any adjacent suburb of a city or village, is greater than the free extension specified above, such an extension shall be made under the following conditions: The utility may require a deposit of the cost of the extension above the free limit and shall, in such a case, refund an amount equal to the cost of the free main extension for each additional consumer whose service shall be taken off of the entire extension within a period of ten years from the making of such an extension, but at no time shall the rebate made exceed the original deposit. If the extension is of such length and the prospective business which may be developed by it is so meager as to make it doubtful whether the business from the extension would ever pay a fair return on the investment, the facts shall be reported to the commission for investigation and determination as to the reasonableness of such extension.

This rule shall not be construed as prohibiting any utility from making free extensions of lengths greater than above specified, or from providing a method of return of deposits for extensions more favorable to consumers, so long as no discrimination is practiced between consumers whose service requirements are similar.

(c) **CONTRACT FOR SERVICE.**—Utilities will not be required to

make line extensions as described in this rule unless those to be served by such extensions shall contract to use the service for at least one year.

By order of the Commission, this 24th day of September, 1914.
Dated at Springfield, Illinois.

[SEAL.]

R. V. PRATHER,
Acting Secretary



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